

REMARKS

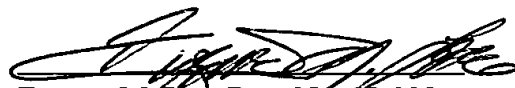
The above amendment is presented to update the status of parent application S.N. 09/724,186. For convenience of the Examiner, there is attached a copy of the first page of the issued parent '196 and '344 patents, which provide all pertinent data including foreign application priority and art cited by the Examiner in said parent applications.

A timely response to the Official Action dated July 8, 2002, including Terminal Disclaimers, was filed in October 6, 2002.

Further favorable Action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 26, 2003



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PETITION and DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.